



Arizona Medical Board

9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

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Telephone (480) 551-2700 • Fax (480) 551-2704 • In-State Toll Free (877) 255-2212

DRAFT MINUTES FOR TELECONFERENCE OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SUPERVISION

Monday, August 27, 2007

9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona

Subcommittee Members

Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D., F.A.C.S., Chair

Ram R. Krishna, M.D.

Paul M. Petelin, Sr., M.D.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following Subcommittee Members were present: Dr. Goldfarb and Dr. Krishna. Dr. Petelin joined the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

CALL TO PUBLIC

There was no one present for call to public.

Rich Bitner, Legislative Counsel for Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants (ASAPA), and Karen Owens of the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA) observed the meeting.

NON-TIME SPECIFIC ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

July 25, 2007 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Dr. Krishna moved to approve the July 25, 2007 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

SECONDED: Dr. Goldfarb

VOTE: 2-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 1-absent

MOTION PASSED.

Draft Guidelines for Physician Supervision of Physician Assistants

Dr. Goldfarb led the discussion of the proposed Draft Guidelines. Dr. Goldfarb commented that the Draft is a good compilation of the subject. He stated that one particular area he wanted to discuss was section IV, the Supervising Physician's Responsibilities for Physician Assistant Supervision. Dr. Goldfarb questioned whether the Draft provides enough guidance for the Supervising Physician (SP). Dr. Goldfarb agreed with the revisions as proposed by Christine Cassetta, Board Legal Counsel, regarding section IV, paragraph one deleting "to review a daily list of all patients." Dr. Goldfarb was also in agreement with adding to paragraph three of this same section "In light of these challenges, a SP must be particularly diligent in following the requirements for proper supervision including responsibility for the PA's practice setting. Accordingly, in addition to the requirements of supervision. . . ."

Dr. Goldfarb was concerned with the possibility of SPs and PAs becoming too comfortable with each other and not recognizing the need for consultation. Dr. Krishna stated, in general, the Draft covers the aspects of the SP assuming more responsibility for supervision. Dr. Petelin stated that part of the problem is because PAs are becoming so good and so confident that there is a laxity that the SP may feel because his or her PA has become so knowledgeable. Dr. Petelin stated the Draft gives good guidelines for what would be considered the standard of care and for the relationship of the PA and the SP.

Mr. Bitner addressed the Subcommittee on behalf of ASAPA. He stated ASAPA believes, for the most part, the Draft Guideline document is an accurate reflection of statutes and rules. ASAPA believes the aim of the document should be educational in nature and designed to avoid creating confusion about what the Medical Practice Act and supporting rules legally require. Mr. Bitner stated in section IV, regarding the requirement of daily review of the list of all patients, ASAPA believes this may apply to some PAs, but under the Medical Practice Act is not required. In conclusion, Mr. Bitner stated, ASAPA believes the guidelines should be phrased in a more aspirational tone perhaps by speaking in terms of best practices rather than mandates.

Dr. Petelin was concerned with how weekly meetings between the SP and the PA will be documented as the draft does not address the need for documentation. Dr. Goldfarb stated there should not be a required number of charts reviewed weekly; however, the SP should be required to maintain a log of the cases reviewed. Ms. Cassetta suggested adding "The SP and PA should document the weekly meeting and what was discussed either in the patient's chart or in a separate log" to section VI. Dr. Goldfarb stated a separate log would be more appropriate and suggested having the log document the patient name, the date the case was discussed, along with the SP and PA's signatures. Ms. Owens addressed the Subcommittee on behalf of AzHHA. Ms. Owens stated she was concerned with the PA and SP keeping a log in an emergency room setting. She stated that documentation requirements should be left to the discretion of the SP and the PA. Dr. Goldfarb stated that in the body of the draft it states that if the SP and the PA, in any setting, are working together, collaborating on care and treatment, they do not need to have a weekly meeting. Dr. Krishna stated that this does not affect the emergency setting because the PAs are constantly being supervised. Dr. Goldfarb stated that if the SP and the PA have a weekly meeting they need to log what is discussed. Dr. Goldfarb also stated that in the emergency room setting the SP and PA are discussing treatment for all patients and weekly meetings are not required. Ms. Owens directed the Board to section IV, paragraph two and asked the Board to clarify that the daily chart reviews were a recommendation. Dr. Goldfarb stated daily chart reviews are an option. Ms. Owens suggested including "the SP may, for example, choose to perform a daily chart review." Ms. Cassetta recommended "To meet this requirement the supervisor may choose to, for example, perform a daily chart review" at the beginning of the third sentence in the second paragraph of section IV. The Subcommittee agreed with Ms. Cassetta's recommendation.

MOTION: Dr. Krishna moved to accept the Draft Guidelines for Physician Supervision of Physician Assistants with the recommended changes.

SECONDED: Dr. Petelin

VOTE: 3-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent

MOTION PASSED.

Dr. Goldfarb suggested the guidelines be submitted to the PA Subcommittee for their approval to be submitted to the full Board.



The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Timothy C. Miller, J.D., Executive Director